University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2016
SYLLABUS

BIOL 1710: Biology for Science Majors I: Section : 001 3Hrs			
Department of	**Health and Life Sciences**	**Division of**	**Liberal Arts and Sciences**

Instructor Name:	Dr. Kelly Varga
Office Location:	DAL2 249
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Email Address:	Kelly.varga@untdallas.edu
Office Hours:	**M: 2:30-4; W: 11:30-12:15; Tu 1:30-3pm**
Virtual Office Hours:	N/A
Classroom Location:	DAL 2 #304
Class Meeting Days & Times:	**MW 1-2:20pm**
Course Catalog Description:	An integrated approach to cell and molecular biology with an emphasis on biological chemistry, cell structure and function, Mendelian and molecular genetics, and evolutionary biology. For students preparing for advanced study in the biological sciences.
Prerequisites:	**None**
Co-requisites:	**BIOL 1710 D 290 and BIOL 1730 D 090**
Required Text:	***Biology* by Campbell, Reece, Urry, Cain, Wasserman, Minorsky and Jackson; 10th ed.**
Recommended Text and References:	To be announced if necessary
Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 338-1616; web: http://www.untdallas.edu/our-campus/library UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fheg.follett.com

Course Goals or Overview:

To give students preparing for advanced study in the biological sciences a broad base of knowledge within cell and molecular biology with an emphasis on biological chemistry, cell structure and function, Mendelian and molecular genetics, and evolutionary biology.

Student Learning Objectives:

1	Understand basic concepts of science as a way of knowing cell biology, biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics, and evolutionary biology.
2	Develop skills in scientific reasoning and experimental design.
3	Develop skills in scientific writing.
4	Practice and demonstrate competence of Common Core Objectives including critical thinking skills, communication skills, empirical and quantitative skills and teamwork

Course Outline is on the following page:

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class.

Topics	Timeline	Due Dates
Chapter 1: Evolution, the Themes of Biology and Scientific Inquiry	Week of 8/22/16	**Bio-literacy survey on Blackboard- Due by August 26th**
Chapter 3 & 4: Water and Life/ Carbon and molecules	Week of 8/29/16	
Labor Day NO CLASSES	**MONDAY 9/5/16**	
Chapter 5: The Structure and Function of Large Biological Molecules	Wednesday 9/7/16	
Review/ catch up/ Test 1	Week of 9/12/16 ****EXAM 1 : 9/14/16**	
Chapter 6: A Tour of the Cell/ Journal article introduction**	Week of 9/19/16	
Chapter 7: Membrane Structure and Function	Week of 9/26/16	Journal review # 1 – choose from the journal articles I have posted and follow the directions on blackboard - **Due 9/28/16 in class**
Chapter 8: An Introduction to Metabolism	Week of 10/3/16	
Review/ catch up/ **Test 2**	Week of 10/10/16 ****EXAM 2: 10/12/16**	
Chapter 9: Cellular Respiration	Week of 10/17/16	
Chapter 9: Fermentation	Week of 10/24/16	Journal review # 2 – choose from the journal articles I have posted and follow the directions on blackboard **-due 10/26/16 in class**
Chapter 10: Photosynthesis *time allowed, brief intro to cell communication from Chapter 11	Week of 10/31/16	
Catch up/ **Test 3**	**NO CLASS: 11/7/16** ****EXAM 3: 11/9/16**	**Blackboard assignment on Cellular Respiration/Fermentation/Photosynthesis- Due 11/9/16 in class**
Chapter 12: The Cell Cycle/ Chapter 13: Meiosis and Sexual Life Cycles	Week of 11/14/16	
Chapter 14: Mendel and the Gene Idea, Chapter 15: The Chromosomal Basis of Inheritance	Week of 11/21/16	Journal review # 3 – choose from the journal articles I have posted and follow the directions on blackboard **-due 11/23/16 in class**
First and second set of group presentations	Week of 11/28/16	
Test 4	Week of 12/5/15 **Final Exam**	**Bio-literacy Survey on Blackboard- due by December 9th**

Course Evaluation Methods:

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

- **Bio-literacy Survey** – This will be available to students on Blackboard. Students will complete this online survey 2x during the semester: the week of August 22th, 2016 and again the week of December 5, 2016. Points are awarded for completion of the survey, not the score received. (10 points each)

- **Exams-** these will be comprehensive exams which will cover those topics discussed until the exam date. Final exam is **not** cumulative. (400 points)

- **Journal Article Reviews –** Students will be given two different opportunities to provide a comprehensive review on a peer-reviewed journal article. This is meant to serve as an introduction into scientific literature and how to appropriately digest its material. The first Journal Article will be provided for by the instructor so that students can determine what a peer review article looks like. The second Journal Article will be of the students choosing. Overall, both Journal Article reviews should be a synthetic summary and review of a recently published journal article following the guidelines provided on **Blackboard.**

- **Group Presentation**– In addition to the journal articles, students will be placed into a group designated by the instructor and choose a peer-reviewed research topic to present to the class. This presentation will be modeled after choosing a peer-reviewed journal article and breaking down the components of introduction, material and methods, results and discussion amongst group members. Additionally, the group is required to turn in one ppt presentation to the instructor on the day of the presentation so that the instructor may follow along.

- **Blackboard assignment on Cellular Respiration/Fermentation/Photosynthesis-** (20 points)

- **Class Participation and daily attendance and participation in class discussions-** (50 points)

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Bio-literacy Survey	2@10 pts ea	20
Exams	4 exams @ 100 pts ea	400
Journal Article Reviews	3 @ 25 pts ea	75
Group Presentation	50	50
Cellular Respiration/Fermentation	20	20
Class Participation/ Discussion	50	50
Total:		**615**

Grade Determination:

A = 89.5% or better

B= 79.5%-89.4%

C = 69.5%-79.4%

D =59.5%-69.4%

F = 59.4% and below

University Policies and Procedures:

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed as accommodations are not retroactive. For more information, you may visit the Student Life Office, Suite 200, Building 2 or call Laura Smith at 972-780-3632.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my course and I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy:

All assignment are due at the start of class with no partial credit given for late submission. Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments are due in hard copy and may not be emailed for credit. The only extra credit points given are for the 4 provided case studies.

Exam Policy:

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of% 20Academic_Integrity.pdf for complete provisions of this code.

*******In addition, all academic work submitted for this class, including exams, papers, and written assignments should include the following statement:

> **On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.**

Bad Weather Policy:

On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website www.unt.edu/dallas. Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.

Attendance and Participation

Policy:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class during an excused absence. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if they are absent.

Students are expected to arrive on time for class and roll at the designated time. Being tardy or absent will affect the points earned for attendance and thus your overall grade.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Life as the instructor deems appropriate.

General Behavior:

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and appropriate manner. You should expect to be silent when others are speaking, give your full attention to the professor or speaker, and refrain from reading newspapers or other distracting materials during class time.

- Tobacco products of any kind are not permitted in the classroom.
- Cell phones should always be on silent during class time.
- Laptops and tablets may be approved for use in class for note taking on a provisional case-by-case basis.
- Food is not permitted in the classroom although drinks are allowed as long as they are in a closed lid container.